



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION
LANSING

JUDY KARANDJEFF
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 1, 2010

Representative Joel Sheltroun
Chair, House Committee on Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI

Dear Representative Sheltroun:

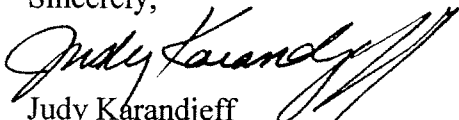
The Michigan Women's Commission voted at its meeting on June 9th to oppose passage of HB 5972 and HB 5973. The commission is concerned that the repeal of these state laws will result in more gun violence against women.

If these bills pass, the only form of background check for pistol purchasers is the federal "Brady" check. If this occurs, a significant portion of pistol sales will not be subject to any check at all, because the federal check does not apply to private gun sales. The federal background checking requirements only apply to sales made by federally licensed gun dealers. Note that nationwide, 40% of gun sales are private, made between individuals at gun shows, over the internet, etc. (i.e., by sellers who are not federally licensed).

We know that women are killed by intimate partners using handguns more often than by any other category of killer. Domestic homicide is the leading cause of death for African-American women age 15 to 45 and the seventh leading cause of premature death for U.S. women overall. In 70 to 80 percent of intimate partner homicides, no matter which partner was killed, the man physically abused the woman before the murder.

We believe it is important to maintain the current licensing requirements. Thank you for the opportunity to let you know our position on this important legislation.

Sincerely,


Judy Karandjeff
Executive Director